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Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/2 of 17 October 1997, in which the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to, *inter alia*, continue to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACTC). The framework for and modalities of this cooperation have been set out in a cooperation agreement which was signed on 25 June 1997 in New York by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of ACTC.

2. Since then, at their Summit held in Hanoi on 15 November 1997, the heads of State and Government of the 49 members of ACTC undertook a number of institutional reforms and created a new organization, the International Organization of la Francophonie. La Francophonie is headed by a Secretary-General and ACTC has become the Organization's principal operator under the name of Agency of la Francophonie. On 18 December 1998, the United Nations General Assembly took note of this change in its decision 53/453 and decided to transfer to la Francophonie the observer status with the Assembly which it had granted to ACTC in its resolution 33/18 of 10 November 1978.

3. The Hanoi Summit adopted the Charter of la Francophonie, under which the Organization was assigned the objectives of assisting in the establishment and development of democracy, the prevention of conflicts, the strengthening of the rule of law and protection of human rights, the intensification of dialogue between cultures and civilizations, the establishment of closer ties among peoples and the strengthening of solidarity through multilateral cooperation activities with a view to promoting the growth of their economies. La Francophonie, which brings together "countries that use French as a common language", is committed to respecting the sovereignty of States and to observing the strictest neutrality in issues of domestic policy.

4. The institutional structure of la Francophonie consists of a supreme body, the Summit, which meets every two years under the chairmanship of the head of State or Government of the host country; the Ministerial Conference, which comprises the Minister for Foreign Affairs or the Minister responsible for francophone affairs of each member; the Standing Council, which consists of the personal representatives of the heads of State or Government; the Secretary-General, who is the political spokesman and official representative of la Francophonie at the international level; the Agency of la Francophonie, which is the principal operator of the cultural, scientific, technical, economic and legal cooperation programmes decided on by the Summit;

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and the International Assembly of French-speaking Parliamentarians, which is the Advisory Assembly of la Francophonie.

5. La Francophonie shall maintain permanent observer or representational missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva, to the European Union in Brussels, and to the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa at Addis Ababa.

II. Political cooperation between secretariats

6. In the application of the agreement between the United Nations and ACTC of 25 June 1997, political issues constitute one of the principal areas of cooperation. The transformation of ACTC into a regional organization, namely, la Francophonie, within the meaning of the Charter of the United Nations is a reaffirmation of the active role which la Francophonie intends to play in the field of preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution, consolidation of democracy, protection of human rights and strengthening of the rule of law. In all of these areas, cooperation between the two organizations takes place usually between their respective secretariats. Such cooperation mostly takes the form of regular contacts on issues that are being actively followed by the United Nations and la Francophonie, with exchanges of information and analyses and working meetings both between senior officials of the two organizations and at the expert level.

7. Upon assuming office on 1 January 1998, therefore, the Secretary-General of la Francophonie took the initiative to invite his counterparts from the principal regional and international organizations to the International Day of la Francophonie, which was commemorated in Paris on 20 March 1998. The United Nations was represented at the conference by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. The aim of this Conference was to introduce the new la Francophonie to the international community and to review the possibilities for cooperation and synergy between international organizations in the fields of peace, security and development. Participants in the conference included the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the British Commonwealth, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Organization of American States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

8. As requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 9 of its resolution 52/2, I have included la Francophonie in the list of regional organizations whose heads I invite periodically to the Organization's Headquarters in New York for consultations.

9. La Francophonie thus participated for the first time in these biennial meetings on 28 and 29 July 1998. Participants in the 1998 meeting, the theme of which was cooperation for conflict prevention, included the heads of 15 regional organizations or their representatives and the Presidents of the General Assembly and Security Council. I presided over most of the meeting, which was attended by several senior officials of the Organization and heads of agencies, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Under-Secretaries-General for Political Affairs, Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Affairs.

10. The United Nations and nine of the regional organizations represented at the meeting circulated to the participants, respectively, an annotated agenda and working documents which gave focus to the deliberations. La Francophonie, which was represented by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and its Permanent Observer to the United Nations, thus presented a detailed document describing its views on conflict prevention, its institutional structure and its principles and priorities for cooperation with regional and international organizations. These principles and priorities include respect for the primacy of the United Nations, the establishment of agreed mechanisms for consultation, the prior division of tasks in order to avoid duplication of activities and rivalries in joint operations, and, lastly, the need to harmonize the activities of regional organizations and those of the world body.

11. On 10 and 11 December, la Francophonie also participated in New York in the expert-level follow-up meeting to the high-level meeting of 28 and 29 July. The follow-up meeting was mainly devoted to discussing the 13 proposals for practical modalities of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations which had been elaborated by the Department of Political Affairs on the basis of the high-level discussions that had taken place the previous July. An unofficial summary of the proposals made by the various participants for the implementation of these practical modalities was sent on 6 April 1999 to the

regional organizations concerned. A list of persons serving as liaison officers for matters concerning preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention was also prepared and circulated at the meeting of 10 and 11 December. The meeting identified approaches and examined proposals for joint action between the United Nations and la Francophonie in the field of conflict prevention.

12. Because of the active role which it is playing in the efforts of the international community to contribute to a settlement of the conflict in Burundi, la Francophonie was invited to participate in the consultations organized by the Secretariat and the Canadian Government held on 10 and 11 January in New York. These consultations, in which President Julius Nyerere, the mediator appointed by the region, a delegation of the Government of Burundi and representatives of the donor community also participated, reviewed the Arusha process, the humanitarian needs of the population of Burundi, and the prospects for a resumption of development cooperation activities once sanctions have been lifted.

13. La Francophonie also participated in the meeting on Guinea-Bissau which was convened in New York on 20 April 1999 by the Secretariat, pursuant to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1233 (1999), and chaired by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs. The purpose of the meeting was to examine ways in which the international community could support the peacekeeping force (ECOMOG), which had been deployed in Guinea-Bissau by ECOWAS. At the meeting, la Francophonie offered to provide the computer equipment and software needed by ECOMOG and to contribute to the electoral process in Guinea-Bissau. La Francophonie also participated in the follow-up meeting which was convened by the United Nations in Geneva on 5 May 1999, at which the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau and the Secretary-General of ECOWAS were present.

14. In implementation of the agreement on cooperation between the United Nations and la Francophonie and in the spirit of the meetings referred to in paragraphs 10 and 11 above, a high-level delegation from la Francophonie travelled to New York for three days of intensive consultations with the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on a number of issues of common interest. The exchanges mainly concerned Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guinea-Bissau, where la Francophonie and the United Nations have carried out activities, as well as Togo, where la Francophonie has a presence. These exchanges were in addition to regular consultations with the Office of the Permanent Observer of la Francophonie on issues and situations being followed by the two organizations.

15. Separate discussions took place with the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs and with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on cooperation in electoral assistance and electoral observation activities and in the strengthening of African peacekeeping capacities. La Francophonie has also participated in three electoral observation missions, under the aegis of the United Nations: in Cambodia, on 26 July 1998; in the Central African Republic, on 22 November and 13 December 1998; and in Nigeria, on 27 February 1999.

16. The recent biennial Summit of la Francophonie, which was held from 3-5 September 1999 at Moncton, New Brunswick (Canada), focused on the theme of youth. The Summit provided me with an opportunity to review with the Secretary-General of la Francophonie a number of issues on the agenda of the two organizations and to meet a number of persons who were present. Indeed, it brought together delegations from 55 member countries of la Francophonie, 40 of which were represented by their head of State or Government. The participants adopted a declaration and a plan of action, in which they reaffirmed the commitment of la Francophonie to peace, democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, linguistic and cultural diversity, education, economic cooperation and new information and communications technologies.

III. Cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields and with the programmes and funds of the United Nations and its specialized agencies

17. Apart from the political aspects, which were dealt with in paragraphs 6 to 15 above, the cooperation agreement of 25 June 1997 deals with economic, social, scientific and cultural matters. In the United Nations system, most of these matters are dealt with by the programmes, funds and specialized agencies, several of which are linked to la Francophonie through separate cooperation agreements.

Department of Public Information

18. In the search for new modalities of cooperation, la Francophonie in late 1998 broadened its contacts with the Department of Public Information. The combined efforts of la Francophonie and the Department have already resulted

in fruitful and practical cooperation. Firstly, with respect to the development of Internet services in Africa, the Department of Public Information, represented by its Information Technology Section, and la Francophonie, represented by the Institut des nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la formation (INTIF), organized a seminar in francophone West Africa to familiarize participants with the Internet and train them in its use. The seminar, on the theme "The Internet as a tool in the service of development", was held from 5 to 16 July 1999 at Abidjan. It brought together some 20 officials responsible for institutional communications working in the information and communications sector of ministries of education, information/communication or development in the nine francophone countries of the region. The participants were able to familiarize themselves with the resources offered on the Internet by the United Nations and by la Francophonie and to acquire technical training in the presentation of information on line. La Francophonie provided the necessary financial support for the organization and convening of the seminar, while the Department of Public Information was responsible for the preparation and delivery of most of the seminar's contents. A seminar Web site was created and a discussion list posted. Consideration is being given to the organization of similar events.

19. In addition, la Francophonie has concluded with the United Nations an agreement for the funding of an expert from a francophone developing country, who is a specialist in new information technologies. The services of the expert will be made available to the Information Technology Section of the Department of Public Information.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

20. UNESCO and ACTC signed a framework cooperation agreement in 1976 and an additional protocol in 1990, establishing permanent cooperation mechanisms through joint commissions to harmonize the activities of the two organizations in their member States. Since then, there has been close collaboration between the organs of la Francophonie and UNESCO, and cooperation with the International Organization of la Francophonie has blossomed during the period covered by this report.

21. The Association francophone d'amitié et de liaison (France) therefore proposed that UNESCO should award its 1998 International Simon Bolivar Prize to the Secretary-General of la Francophonie, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

22. L'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie financed the participation of eight French-language universities at the Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage meeting held in Melbourne, Australia, in October 1998. UNESCO, in turn, participated in the symposium on multilingualism in international organizations held in Geneva on 5 and 6 November 1998, which was organized by the General Secretariat of la Francophonie.

23. Among the general and regional history projects, the set of abridged versions in French of *The General History of Africa*, in eight volumes, was completed through the cooperative efforts of the Agency of la Francophonie, Editions EDICEF and UNESCO; the Agency also helped to finance this publication. Negotiations with the Agency are under way concerning the publication by Hachette and EDICEF of the French version in seven volumes of the new edition of the *History of Humanity: Scientific and Cultural Development*. The Agency has also contributed financially to the publication of the following titles: *Savoir lire et après. guide pratique illustré pour produire des matériels de lecture pour la postalphabétisation* (1996) and *Droits d'auteur et droits voisins* (1997).

24. UNESCO contributed, as it customarily does, to the organization of the Journée de la Francophonie, which takes place every year at UNESCO headquarters and was held this year on 22 March 1999.

25. UNESCO participated in the first Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance of la Francophonie, which took as its theme "Investment and trade" (Monaco, 14-15 April 1999). The Monaco Declaration adopted at that Conference reaffirmed principles which coincide in some respects with the guiding principles of UNESCO.

26. The Agency of la Francophonie contributed to the second International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education organized by UNESCO in Seoul from 26 to 30 April 1999 and to the Inter-Agency Meeting on Priorities in Secondary Education Reform, held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 10 to 11 June 1999. Representatives of the two organizations met to plan follow-up to the resolutions adopted at those meetings.

27. The Agency of la Francophonie has expressed an interest in the UNESCO project of filming and distributing the adaptation of Aristophanes's *Lysistrata* directed by Roger Coggio; it would constitute an educational and cultural tool for encouraging non-violence and promoting the role of women as essential to a culture of peace.

28. Two training sessions for instructors in information and communications technologies were held in Libreville and Niamey from October to December 1998, with financial support from the Government of France, in cooperation with

the Association of Partially or Wholly French-Language Universities (AUPELF).

29. As part of its strategy of mobilizing new partnerships, UNESCO is collaborating with the International Assembly of French-Speaking Parliamentarians (AIPLF), consisting of representatives from over 59 national parliaments on the five continents, which serves as an advisory body to the Standing Council and to the heads of State and Government, or Summit, of la Francophonie. On 23 April 1997, the President of AIPLF (now the Advisory Assembly of la Francophonie) visited UNESCO headquarters. In addition, UNESCO attended the twenty-third regular session of AIPLF (Luxembourg, 9 July 1997); the AIPLF conference on the status of democratization in Africa (Libreville, 30 March-2 April 1998); the twenty-fourth regular session of AIPLF (Abidjan, 6-9 July 1998); and the twenty-fifth regular session (Ottawa, 5-8 July 1999), at which the Assembly adopted a recommendation concerning the French-language educational channel and expressly invited UNESCO to take part in the project.

30. UNESCO is currently exploring the possibility of signing a protocol of agreement with the International Organization of la Francophonie for the recruitment of young professionals from developing countries, who would be taken on by the International Organization of la Francophonie and seconded to UNESCO for a year. UNESCO is also contemplating involving la Francophonie in the organization of its annual film festival against exclusion and for tolerance and in creating cooperative arrangements for the distribution of teaching materials already existing in French and the translation into French and subsequent distribution of works published in other languages by UNESCO.

31. A joint project on the theme, "Women, young people and urban development: training and income-generating activities as a means of poverty reduction", is also being contemplated. If it comes about, it could be included under the framework agreement and additional protocol which UNESCO is planning to sign with la Francophonie.

32. At the suggestion of UNESCO, the theme, "Youth in the City" was adopted as the keynote theme of the nineteenth general assembly of the International Association of Mayors and Others Responsible for Partially or Entirely French-speaking Capital Cities or Metropolises (AIMF) (Quebec City, Canada, 1-3 September 1999) and was included on the agenda of the eighth Summit of Heads of State and Government of countries that use French as a common language (Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, 3-5 September 1999), which UNESCO attended.

United Nations Development Programme

33. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) duly noted General Assembly decision 53/453 concerning the transfer of observer status from the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACTC) to the International Organization of la Francophonie and recognized that the latter therefore succeeded to the rights and obligations deriving from the framework cooperation agreement which the Agency signed with UNDP on 2 October 1996. An exchange of letters between the Secretary-General of la Francophonie and the Administrator of UNDP underscored the common desire of the two organizations to work more closely together through both their headquarters and their local field offices. A joint UNDP-Francophonie committee is to meet in the fourth quarter of 1999 to assess the results of three years of cooperation since the signing of the framework agreement and to draw up guidelines for a new and stronger partnership.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

34. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has participated in a number of programmes instituted by la Francophonie. In particular, it has offered the services of specialists to give courses as part of Francophonie training programmes. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Mary Robinson, met with the Secretary-General of la Francophonie at the latter's headquarters in Paris on 8 June 1999 and discussed with him ways of promoting closer cooperation between the two institutions and strengthening the implementation of their memorandum of agreement. Through its Permanent Observer Mission in Geneva, la Francophonie followed the debates of the fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and let it be known that it considered the issues of the right to development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance scheduled for 2001 to be priority matters.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

35. La Francophonie was heavily involved in the Partners for Development Summit organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and held in Lyons, France, from 8 to 13 November 1998. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of la Francophonie, addressed the participants on two occasions, on 8 and 11 November. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD was

invited in turn as guest of honour to the Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance of la Francophonie held in Monaco in April 1999. On that occasion la Francophonie signed a framework agreement with UNCTAD, under which the first joint activity was a seminar on investment, trade and economic development held in Evian, France, on 21 and 22 April 1999.

United Nations Children's Fund

36. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and ACTC signed a framework cooperation agreement on 26 October 1995 and adopted a cooperation programme on 1 October the following year. As a matter of priority, they decided to pool their expertise in basic education in activities in the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Guinea, Haiti, Mauritania, Senegal and Viet Nam. Special emphasis was placed on the education of girls and training of young women from the most disadvantaged classes. Constant efforts are made to ensure that the curricula and teaching aids used are appropriate to the social and cultural environment of each of these countries.

37. The projects benefit from the comprehensive approach to the complex of children-youth-women issues that has always characterized cooperation between ACTC and UNICEF and allows for better integration of social sectors and a measurable impact on the most vulnerable groups.

38. La Francophonie and UNICEF now regularly cooperate in advocating compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child in both developing and developed countries.

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

39. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) collaborates with la Francophonie through the Agency of la Francophonie in the execution of several projects, including:

(a) The international civil service training programme run by ACTC and UNITAR in conjunction with the International Institute for Public Administration (IIAP) and the Institute of International Relations of the Cameroon (IRIC), designed specifically for national officials from sectoral ministries of French-speaking developing countries and Central European countries. The seven-month training programme familiarizes participants with international public administration and multilateral mechanisms. It also offers practical experience in how international organizations function. Instruction is given in Yaoundé, Paris and Geneva over a period of four months. It is supplemented by three-month internships in international organizations;

(b) Creation of the French version of the CD-ROM, "Internet au Sud", conceived as an electronic library with a document base and instructions on various topics relating to the information society: the relevant technology, infrastructure, law and issues as they apply to the countries of the South;

(c) Joint organization of a programme for strengthening national capacity in information technology. The programme is in two parts: technical sessions and training sessions in Internet management and networking. The training is given in French-speaking Africa.

IV. Participation in conferences organized by the United Nations system

40. Since my last report to the General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations system and the International Organization of la Francophonie, the latter has been represented at many conferences and meetings organized by the United Nations system. In addition to those already mentioned above, it participated in the preparations for the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, held in New York and Rome in June and July 1998; the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education, held in Paris on 6 October 1998; the sixth session at the ministerial level of the Commission on Sustainable Development; meetings of the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together, held in June 1998; meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development scheduled for the year 2000; the ministerial meeting in September 1998 in follow-up to the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, which was held in Bucharest in 1997; the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in May 1998; the eighty-sixth session of the International Labour Conference in June 1998; and various meetings of the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva.

V. Observations

41. Cooperation between the United Nations system and la Francophonie embraces a growing number of areas of activity in which the two organizations share a common interest. It is characterized by a concern for complementarity and an awareness of their respective comparative advantages. The growing number of personal contacts and working meetings between officials of the United Nations and la Francophonie suggest that there will be a rapid broadening and deepening of their collaboration with a view to improving the efficacy of the efforts of both organizations.

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Agenda item 7
Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations

Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with the provisions of Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations and with the consent of the Security Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to notify the General Assembly of matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security that are being dealt with by the Security Council and of matters with which the Council has ceased to deal.

2. The matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security that have been discussed during the period since the notification to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly (A/53/357) are as follows:

1. The situation between Iraq and Kuwait.
2. The situation in Angola.
3. The situation in Afghanistan.
4. The situation in Africa.
5. The situation concerning Western Sahara.
6. Letter dated 11 March 1998 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/223);

   Letter dated 27 March 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/272).
7. Protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations.

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8. International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States.

9. The situation in the Central African Republic.

10. The situation in Guinea-Bissau.

11. The situation in Croatia.

12. The situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border.

13. International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia.

14. The situation in the Middle East.

15. The situation in Georgia.

16. The question concerning Haiti.

17. Items relating to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

18. Maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peace-building.

19. The situation in Sierra Leone.

20. The situation in Cyprus.

21. Promoting peace and security: humanitarian activities relevant to the Security Council.

22. The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

23. Protection of civilians in armed conflict.

24. The situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

25. Letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/320).

26. Letters dated 20 and 23 December 1991 from France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (S/23306, S/23307, S/23308, S/23309 and S/23317).

27. The situation in East Timor.*

28. Letter dated 7 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/523).

29. Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998) and 1203 (1998).

30. The situation in Somalia.

31. Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998) and 1239 (1999).

* Prior to the 4041st meeting, held on 3 September 1999, this item had been formulated as "The situation in Timor".

32. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

33. Promoting peace and security: humanitarian assistance to refugees in Africa.

34. International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia;

International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States;

Appointment of the Prosecutor.

35. Children and armed conflict.

3. In accordance with the procedure set out in the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 August 1996 (S/1996/704), the Secretary-General, in his summary statement of 15 January 1999 on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration submitted pursuant to rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council (S/1999/25), informed Member States that, as at 1 January 1999, the Security Council had not considered in formal meetings during the preceding five-year period (1994-1998) the following items (the item numbers correspond to those contained in paragraph 11 of document S/1998/44 and Corr.1):

Item 1. The Palestine question.

Item 2. The India-Pakistan question (S/628).

Item 3. The Hyderabad question (S/986).

Item 4. Letter dated 20 February 1958 from the representative of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General (S/3963).

Item 5. Letter dated 11 July 1960 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/4378).

Item 6. Letter dated 31 December 1960 from the Minister for External Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/4605).

Item 9. The situation in the India/Pakistan subcontinent (S/10411).

Item 10. Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/10409).

Item 11. Complaint by Cuba (S/10993).

Item 12. Arrangements for the proposed Peace Conference on the Middle East.

Item 13. Complaint by Iraq concerning incidents on its frontier with Iran (S/11216).

Item 16. The situation in Timor (S/11899).

Item 17. The Middle East problem, including the Palestinian question.

* Prior to the 3647th meeting, held on 4 April 1996, this item had been formulated as "The situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

Item 18. Request by the Libyan Arab Republic and Pakistan for consideration of the serious situation arising from recent developments in the occupied Arab territories (S/12017).

Item 20. The question of the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights.

Item 22. The situation between Iran and Iraq.

Item 23. Complaint by Iraq (S/14509).

Item 24. Letter dated 19 February 1983 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15615).

Item 25. Letter dated 8 August 1983 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15914).

Item 26. Letter dated 1 September 1983 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15947);

Letter dated 1 September 1983 from the Permanent Observer of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15948);

Letter dated 1 September 1983 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15949);

Letter dated 1 September 1983 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15950);

Letter dated 2 September 1983 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15951).

Item 27. Letter dated 22 March 1984 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/16431).

Item 28. Letter dated 1 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17509).

Item 29. Letter dated 4 February 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17787).

Item 30. Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17991);

Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17992);

Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17993);

Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17994).

Item 31. Letter dated 10 February 1988 from the Permanent Observer of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/19488);

Letter dated 10 February 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/19489).

Item 32. Letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/19798).

Item 33. Letter dated 4 January 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/20364);

Letter dated 4 January 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/20367).

Item 35. Letter dated 2 February 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/21120).

Item 42. (a) The situation between Iraq and Kuwait;

(b) Letter dated 2 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/22435);

Letter dated 4 April 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/22442);

Letter dated 5 March 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/23685 and Add.1).

Item 80. Further report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 743 (1992).

Item 83. Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 807 (1993).

Item 84. Participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in the work of the Economic and Social Council.

Item 85. Letter dated 12 March 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council;

Letter dated 19 March 1993 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council;

Note by the Secretary-General.

Item 88. Applications made under Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations as a consequence of the implementation of measures imposed against the former Yugoslavia.

Item 91. Complaint by Ukraine regarding the decree of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation concerning Sevastopol.

Item 92. Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe missions in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

4. Subsequently, in accordance with the procedure contained in document S/1996/704, the Secretary-General received notifications from Member States requesting him to retain items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 42 and 91, as they appear in paragraph 3 above, on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized.

5. Also pursuant to the decisions of the Security Council referred to above and in the absence of receipt of any notification to the contrary by 28 February 1999 requesting the retention of an item listed in paragraph 3 above, the remaining items mentioned therein, that is, items 26, 31, 80, 83, 84, 85, 88 and 92, were deleted from the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized.

6. During the period since the notification to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session (A/53/357), the Security Council has not discussed at a formal meeting the following matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security of which it remains seized:

1. The Palestine question.
2. The India-Pakistan question (S/628).
3. The Hyderabad question (S/986).
4. Letter dated 20 February 1958 from the representative of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General (S/3963).
5. Letter dated 11 July 1960 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/4378).
6. Letter dated 31 December 1960 from the Minister for External Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/4605).
7. The situation in the India/Pakistan subcontinent (S/10411).
8. Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/10409).
9. Complaint by Cuba (S/10993).
10. Arrangements for the proposed Peace Conference on the Middle East.
11. Complaint by Iraq concerning incidents on its frontier with Iran (S/11216).
12. The Middle East problem, including the Palestinian question.

13. Request by the Libyan Arab Republic and Pakistan for consideration of the serious situation arising from recent developments in the occupied Arab territories (S/12017).

14. The situation in the occupied Arab territories.

15. The question of the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights.

16. The situation between Iran and Iraq.

17. Complaint by Iraq (S/14509).

18. Letter dated 19 February 1983 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15615).

19. Letter dated 8 August 1983 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15914).

20. Letter dated 22 March 1984 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/16431).

21. Letter dated 1 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17509).

22. Letter dated 4 February 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17787).

23. Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17991);

Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17992);

Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17993);

Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17994).

24. Letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/19798).

25. Letter dated 4 January 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/20364);

Letter dated 4 January 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/20367).

26. Central America: efforts towards peace.

27. Letter dated 2 February 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/21120).

28. The situation in Cambodia.

29. The situation in Liberia.

30. (a) The situation between Iraq and Kuwait;

(b) Letter dated 2 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/22435);

Letter dated 4 April 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/22442);

Letter dated 5 March 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/23685).

31. The situation relating to Nagorny Karabakh.

32. An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping.

33. The situation in Mozambique.

34. The situation prevailing in and adjacent to the United Nations Protected Areas in Croatia.

35. Establishment of an international tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

36. The situation concerning Rwanda.

37. Follow-up to resolution 817 (1993).

38. United Nations Protection Force.

39. Complaint by Ukraine regarding the decree of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation concerning Sevastopol.

40. Security of United Nations operations.

41. Navigation on the Danube river in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

42. The situation in Burundi.

43. Note by the Secretary-General (S/1994/254);

Note by the Secretary-General (S/1994/322).

44. Agreement signed on 4 April 1994 between the Governments of Chad and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya concerning the practical modalities for the implementation of the Judgment delivered by the International Court of Justice on 3 February 1994.

45. Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a letter dated 27 May 1994 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) addressed to the Secretary-General (S/1994/631).

46. The situation in the Republic of Yemen.

47. An Agenda for Peace: peacekeeping.

48. Agreed framework of 21 October 1994 between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

49. The situation prevailing in and around the safe area of Bihac.

50. Letter dated 14 December 1994 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1994/1418).

51. An Agenda for Peace.

52. The proposal by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America on security assurances.

53. Navigation on the Danube river.

54. The situation in the former Yugoslavia.

55. Letter dated 9 January 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning the extradition of the suspects wanted in the assassination attempt on the life of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Addis Ababa on 26 June 1995 (S/1996/10).

56. Shooting down of two civil aircraft on 24 February 1996.

57. Signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba).

58. Demining in the context of United Nations peacekeeping.

59. Letters dated 23 September and 3 and 11 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1996/774, S/1996/824 and S/1996/847);

    Letters dated 23 and 27 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council and to the Secretary-General, respectively (S/1996/768 and S/1996/800).

60. The situation in the Great Lakes region.

61. The situation in Albania.

62. Civilian police in peacekeeping operations.

63. The situation in the Republic of the Congo.

64. Letter dated 31 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/287).

65. The responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security.

66. Letter dated 29 June 1998 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/581);

    Letter dated 25 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/1998/582);

Letter dated 25 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/1998/583).

67. Threats to peace and security caused by international terrorist acts.

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United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 53/153 is composed of three sections. Sections II and III refer to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education 1995-2004 and public information activities in the field of human rights undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Section IV refers to public information activities in the field of human rights undertaken by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat.

II. Implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education

2. Since the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, when the Assembly considered the previous report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (A/53/313), the Secretary-General has reported to the Commission on Human Rights on the implementation of the Plan of Action (E/CN.4/1999/87) and on public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1999/86). The Commission, on 28 April 1999, adopted a resolution concerning each of those questions.[1] Further information on activities related to the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education is contained in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.[2]

A. Component one: Assessing needs and formulating strategies for human rights education

3. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is carrying out a survey of existing programmes, materials and organizations for human rights education at the international, regional, national and local levels. Targeted questionnaires will be sent out in September/October 1999, as a joint effort of the Office and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to all Decade partners. A related database, which will make the collected information broadly available through the Web site of the Office, is currently under construction.

B. Components two and three: Strengthening international and regional programmes and capacities for human rights education

1. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

4. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has continued to disseminate information on the Decade and on human rights education by answering related inquiries from interested representatives of Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, students and other individuals, and organizations. Notes verbales were addressed in June 1999 to all Governments, as were letters to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, drawing their attention to General Assembly resolution 53/153 and soliciting information on their contribution to its implementation. A specific page concerning the Decade in the Web site of the Office is periodically updated in order to disseminate related information.

5. The Office of the High Commissioner has continued its technical cooperation activities aimed at strengthening national capacities in the field of human rights, including human rights education and public information. Details of these activities are provided in the report of the Secretary-General on advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights, submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session (E/CN.4/1999/99), and in the report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session (A/54/336).

6. As indicated in previous reports (see, in particular, E/CN.4/1999/87), the Assisting Communities Together (ACT) project was launched in 1998 to assist organizations and individuals at the local level in carrying out activities aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in local communities. In 1998, 69 individual grants totalling approximately US$ 130,000 were awarded to human rights initiatives in 24 countries. Thanks to additional voluntary contributions received in 1999 from the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, a second round of ACT project grants will be awarded by end-

1999/beginning 2000. Application materials for the ACT project and a description of the project in English, French and Spanish are available from the Office of the High Commissioner.

7. In February 1999, the Office organized the Seventh Workshop on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian and Pacific Region. Governmental representatives from 29 countries in the region reaffirmed that, within the regional technical cooperation programme in Asia and the Pacific region, one major area of focus would continue to be human rights education.[3] As a follow-up to the Workshop, an intersessional subregional workshop on human rights education in schools and a regional workshop on human rights education are scheduled to be held, respectively, in the Republic of Korea in 1999 and in Japan in early 2000.

8. The Office organized jointly with the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union, a pilot training course for field officers on human rights monitoring in July 1999. In addition, the Office has substantively contributed to several educational activities, such as: (a) international human rights training programmes organized by various institutions (e.g., International Institute for Human Rights, France; International Organization for the Development of Freedom of Education, Switzerland; Canadian Human Rights Foundation; Scuola Superiore S. Anna, Italy; and Essex University, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); (b) regional conferences (such as the three conferences organized by UNESCO between December 1998 and February 1999 in Africa, Asia and in the Arab region, and an international conference on human rights education in the Asian and Pacific region which gathered together at Osaka, Japan, in November 1998, relevant non-governmental organizations); and (c) special events and other initiatives, such as those highlighted in sections III.C and IV below.

2. United Nations system

9. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has been focusing its contribution on three areas, often in close cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) **Strengthening human rights education capacities at the national and regional levels.** UNESCO organized in 1998/1999 three regional conferences on human rights education in Africa (Senegal, December 1998), Asia and the Pacific (India, February 1999) and in the Arab world (Morocco, February 1999). Letters signed jointly by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Director-General of UNESCO were sent to all Governments, calling upon Governments to establish comprehensive, effective and sustainable national plans of action for human rights education (see sect. C below);

(b) **Development of human rights educational materials.** These include a manual for human rights education for primary and secondary schools; *Human Rights: New Dimensions and Challenges*; 14 new linguistic versions of *Human Rights: Questions and Answers* and *Introducing Democracy: 80 Questions and Answers*; *Access to Human Rights Documentation: Documentation, Bibliographies and Databases on Human Rights*; *World Directory of Human Rights Research and Training Institutions*, 4th edition; *Human Rights: Major Human Rights Instruments; Status as at 31 May 1998*, and others. Since December 1998, free access to these publications and information on action taken by UNESCO in the field of human rights is also available on-line (see http://www.unesco.org/human_rights/index.html);

(c) **Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.** Activities in this area included an awareness campaign with the production of promotional and other materials (posters, calendars, publications etc.), the organization of the panel on the theme "Human rights education: building a universal culture of human rights" (October 1998), and participation in a series of eight regional seminars organized by the Government of France, which concluded in December 1998 with the gathering at UNESCO headquarters of various human rights actors in a meeting to discuss the theme "Human rights at the dawn of the twenty-first century".

10. The Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat provided extensive information on the programmes carried out by the United Nations peace-building support offices in Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Recent activities of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) include the production, also in indigenous languages, of radio spots and posters on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the dissemination of documents, such as a global agreement on human rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and human rights reports; and participation in related public events organized by universities, human rights organizations and the media. In Guinea-Bissau, the United Nations Peace-building Support Office (UNOGBIS) assisted Movement of Civil Society in organizing a conference on national

reconciliation, which was attended by 300 representatives from all sectors of society. UNOGBIS has been working with the National Electoral Commission on awareness of election procedures, and is currently advising the Government on the possible establishment of a national plan of action for human rights which would include an educational component. The International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) developed a broad campaign on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including painting competitions for children, a travelling exhibition on the Declaration and on the history of human rights in Haiti, debates, film shows, dance and theatrical events, and the dissemination of publications and documents. Regular, ongoing educational activities of MICIVIH include radio broadcasts, and the convening of conferences and seminars for specific professional groups or on selected issues. The UNOL has focused on capacity-building activities vis-à-vis national institutions, such as the Liberia Commission on Human Rights or the National Police Academy, and on advising the Government on the ratification of major human rights treaties.

11. The contribution of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat to human rights education and public information is described in section IV below. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is involved in activities geared towards the promotion of the right of human beings to a safe and healthy environment, which is intertwined with the realization of the right to life, the right to health, the right to safe and healthy working conditions and the right to adequate housing and food. While developing education in environmental matters, UNEP also promotes the empowerment of citizens and their participation in government decision-making.

12. The major current related projects of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute include the promotion, through the publication of related guidelines for practitioners and other reference material, of the use of probation as an alternative to imprisonment, while addressing the human rights of convicted persons and more human forms of sanctioning; trafficking in human beings, forced labour and sexual exploitation, including participation in a global programme against trafficking in human beings (jointly promoted with the Centre for International Crime Prevention at Vienna); and public awareness activities concerning the rights of victims of crime and persons belonging to minorities.

13. From 1 February to 12 March 1999, the United Nations University organized a six-week pilot international human rights course addressing, *inter alia*, economic and political issues, international human rights in the post-cold war world and refugees and human rights. Human rights will be included in the future international courses to be organized by the University (see the related Web site at http://www.unu.edu/ic/spring99/index.htm).

14. The World Food Programme (WFP) produced in December 1998 a brochure on human rights which is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish and which highlights the role of food aid in relation to the promotion and protection of human rights, both in development and emergency situations, and the related work of WFP.

3. Other international organizations

15. The Council of Europe published in June 1999 a preliminary survey of human rights education and training in the member States of the Council of Europe and States with special guest status, prepared in consultation with the Office of the High Commissioner as a contribution to the survey being conducted by the Office and UNESCO (see sect. A above).

16. The International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) is promoting human rights within its member States in three areas: the development of an international code of police ethics, in particular with respect to processing of personal data; the promotion of human rights training in police academies; and the collection and provision to United Nations bodies of information on slavery and similar practices.

4. Human rights institutes

17. The annual meeting of directors of human rights institutes convened by UNESCO with the active involvement of the Office of the High Commissioner was held in Paris on 20 and 21 September 1999, and was expected to be attended by over 40 human rights institutes and UNESCO chairs from all over the world. The 19[illegible]eeting was to focus on the following areas: national strategies for human rights education; the relationship between peace and human rights; and the establishment of an effective networking system among the various institutes.

5. Non-governmental organizations

18. The Office of the High Commissioner has continued to assist and support human rights education programmes by non-governmental organizations through the provision of advice and publications (see sect. III below). Several international non-governmental organizations in consultative

status with the Economic and Social Council have informed the Office of their contribution to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/153 as set out below.

19. The Asian Institute of Human Rights Education, which was established to achieve the goals of the Decade, organized in 1998/1999 conferences which were attended by about 4,000 participants from several states of India. With various universities, it has developed postgraduate courses for human rights education, organized commemorations for International Human Rights Day, convened conferences and teacher training seminars, and developed related materials. In the remaining years of the Decade, the Institute is planning to focus on the following activities and themes: promoting human rights in tribal districts; empowerment of women and protection of children's rights; education, vocational training, health, nutrition, mother and child care; the problem of child prostitution; and human rights education in schools and colleges for students and teachers. The Institute is associated with the activities of the National Human Rights Commission.

20. The Association for World Education has been active in the following areas: human rights and popular participation; human rights and the right to development; and human rights and conflict transformation. The Association of World Citizens has been working with teachers on human rights pedagogies and has been promoting human rights education through articles, by means of both the Internet and handbooks. The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council advises the Roman Catholic bishops of Australia on social justice issues in Australia and overseas; undertakes research and advocacy on such issues; educates the Catholic community about the Church's social justice teachings; and facilitates the development of social justice networks within the Catholic Church. It works with community-based groups. In 1998, the Council produced and distributed a kit containing the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other materials promoting human rights, and organized related events in schools.

21. The Catholic International Office provided information about the activities of its affiliate national organizations in Angola, Bolivia, Haiti and Venezuela. For example, in Venezuela, the organization is focusing on the rights of the child through educational activities oriented towards the participation of children in society (e.g., children's parliamentary assemblies within schools, in the work of local authorities and at the national level); the development of materials to enable children and youth to learn about their rights; and the training of police with regard to the rights of the child. The Andean Commission of Jurists advised that, in May 1998, a human rights database in Spanish (the Net of Andean Judicial Information, http://www.cajpe.org.pe/RIJ) was launched, with the support of the Office of the High Commissioner. The Web site contains information on the judicial systems of the region, a compilation of international human rights instruments, jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and international treaty-based bodies, and legislation of the Andean countries. A CD-ROM has also been produced. The Andean Commission of Jurists cooperates with the Constitutional Court of Bolivia on, *inter alia*, the application of international human rights law in Constitutional Tribunal sentences. The Andean Commission of Jurists works with the Defensorías del Pueblo (People's Advocates) of the Andean region, and has produced an on-line bulletin containing information on their functions with regard to the protection of human rights.

22. The organization Darbar-e-Chishtia Complex advised that it has undertaken programmes concerning illiteracy, health-care awareness and the alleviation of poverty. It is concentrating on raising awareness of women's human rights and the plight of orphans. It has distributed publications on human rights obtained from the United Nations Information Centre at Dhaka. The Federation of Cuban Women provides information about women's rights and educates people in this regard. It publishes a magazine intended to make women aware of their rights, including sexual and reproductive rights. It is also implementing a project on orientational houses for women and their children, which offers free counselling. There are at present 173 houses of orientation in the country. In order to promote knowledge and understanding of women's human rights, the organization works with the media. In 1999, the Federation, the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists and Cuban television, developed a weekly television programme about women's human rights, "Our View". In April 1999, the Federation organized in conjunction with the Government of Cuba, a national seminar to review and assess the implementation of the National Plan of Action of the Cuban Republic in pursuance of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace.

23. Since 1997, the International Federation of ACAT (Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture) has developed an annual human rights training programme for African trainers and activist non-governmental organizations. In addition, affiliates of the International Federation organize local human rights education projects for children in primary and secondary schools and for adults (in parishes, professional groups, women's associations etc.). The International Alliance of Women organizes briefings for its affiliates on the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and

Protection of Human Rights and circulates information on the two bodies through its *International Women's News* quarterly. The International Alliance has disseminated the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in various languages, obtained from the Web site of the Office of the High Commissioner. Other areas of work include the rights of the child, contemporary forms of slavery, trafficking in women and children as well as their sexual exploitation, and religious fundamentalism (since the Alliance believes that fundamentalism weakens the position of women and children).

24. The International Baccalaureate Office is an educational non-governmental organization devoted to promoting peace, human rights and intercultural understanding through international education programmes for children aged from 3 to 19 years. It has approximately 950 member schools affiliated with its human rights programme which seeks to remove barriers and to cultivate in students a spirit of multicultural awareness. Its curricula are aimed at promoting understanding among nations and religious groups and furthering the activities of the United Nations for the promotion of peace. The International Council of Nurses (ICN), which gathers together 122 national organizations, has developed and disseminated position statements, guidelines and publications in English, French and Spanish on health and human rights. The International Council participates in meetings organized by the United Nations concerning economic and cultural rights, elimination of discrimination against women, and rights of the child and indigenous peoples, and informs its affiliates accordingly.

25. In 1999, the International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples has been preparing a training session on the resolution of ethnic conflicts, targeting professionals and activists from regions experiencing such conflicts. International Pen (Writers in Prison Committee) raises awareness of the plight of writers and journalists who are persecuted for their writings, and monitors and reports about the situation of writers and journalists who are either in prison or on trial and lodges interventions with relevant national authorities and United Nations organs, calling for an investigation into specific cases. In 1999, four new national affiliates have been established in France, Italy, the Italian-Swiss border area and Australia.

26. Médecins du monde organized in 1998 a photo exhibition to alert the international community to the life conditions of Afghan women; the exhibition travelled to 32 cities. In addition, it administers in Haiti a medical and psychological programme of support to victims of human rights violations, which includes training sessions on, *inter alia*, legal aid, conflict resolution and medical knowledge. Médecins sans frontieres is to discuss the question of its contribution to human rights education during the meeting of the directors of the national sections in September 1999. The Medical Women's International Association runs programmes for the education of women and adolescents in matters of health care, family planning, safe motherhood and literacy in Africa, Latin America and Asia. For instance, in Bombay, India, it runs a health clinic for women and children where free medication and family planning advice is given. In 1998, an adult literacy programme for women currently attending an AIDS programme at the clinic was initiated. The Bombay clinic intends to hold a street play depicting the advantages of literacy, and to create audio-visual aids on the advantages on health care for mothers and their children.

27. The World Alliance of Reformed Churches advised that the twenty-third General Council of the Alliance, held in Hungary in 1997, reiterated its commitment to human rights and mandated the general secretariat to provide timely information regarding human rights concerns to member churches and assist them in appropriate education and advocacy measures. The Alliance published a booklet entitled *An Ecumenical Invitation to the Churches to Commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, jointly developed with the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation. The focus of the booklet is on religious tolerance and freedom of religion; human rights of women; racism; impunity and truth, justice and reconciliation; economic, social and cultural rights; and rights of indigenous peoples and uprooted people. The World Confederation of Teachers has been promoting among teachers the question of the role of teachers in the promotion of respect for human rights and tolerance.

28. The educational activities of the World Organization against Torture include the dissemination of information about human rights violations (through its urgent appeals programme, the promotion of research, and the preparation of reports on country and thematic situations and individual cases related to the human rights of children and women that are submitted to competent United Nations bodies) and the training of human rights activists (through the organization of internships for graduate and postgraduate students and training sessions in various regions and at Geneva). In 1997, the World Organization (in cooperation with the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, instituted the Observatory of Human Rights Defenders which

presented a report on its activities to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session.

C. Components four and five: Strengthening national and local programmes and capacities for human rights education

29. The Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education provides for the establishment, upon the initiative of Governments or other relevant institutions, of a national committee for human rights education, which should include a broad coalition of governmental and non-governmental actors and should be responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive, effective and sustainable national plan of action for human rights education, in coordination with regional and international organizations. This should constitute an integral part of the overall national plan of action for human rights, when applicable. The Office of the High Commissioner has developed guidelines for such national plans of action (A/52/469/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1), which were forwarded by the High Commissioner and the Director-General of UNESCO to all Heads of Government in September 1998.

30. As at December 1998, the following had reported on related initiatives: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Canada, Chad, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Fiji, France, Germany, Ghana, the Holy See, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Peru, Romania, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Venezuela. The following information was forwarded to the Office of the High Commissioner between January and August 1999:

(a) **Australia**. In December 1998, a national committee for human rights education was established, bringing together the expertise of business, community organizations and the Government in an endeavour to enhance human rights education in the country. The Government provided seed funding for the Committee, whose work plan is focused, *inter alia*, on: the elaboration of a comprehensive audit of existing initiatives and of the current needs of the Australian community; the development of a national action plan for human rights education; the provision, in consultation with education delivery agencies, of assistance to human rights education programmes in selected areas; the development of communication strategies for human rights education; cooperation with international agencies and counterparts in other countries; the development of effective partnerships among governmental, business and community sectors; and monitoring and evaluation activities;

(b) **Belarus**. A national plan for human rights education covering the period 1999-2004 has been adopted. The plan, which is focused on the school system, is aimed at: disseminating the International Bill of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the law of the Republic of Belarus on the rights of the child, and other national and international instruments; incorporating different forms of education and information on the international human rights instruments into curricular and extracurricular activities; developing and publishing textbooks and teachers' guides; analysing new educational technologies and national and international experience in human rights education; and furthering cooperation in the above-mentioned areas with the United Nations, OSCE and the Council of Europe;

(c) **Cameroon**. The Government is favourable towards the integration of a national plan for human rights education and information into the overall national action plan for human rights, which is currently being developed with the assistance of the Office of the High Commissioner;

(d) **Canada**. On the occasion of the fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the federal Department of Canadian Heritage, in partnership with provincial ministries of education and non-governmental organizations, carried out several human rights awareness campaigns and programmes aimed at all ages. Human rights education is also a regular part of the work of the Canadian Human Rights Commission;

(e) **Cape Verde**. The Government requested technical assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for the development of an overall national plan for human rights, which would include a national plan for human rights education and information;

(f) **Central African Republic**. The Ministry of Justice, in close cooperation with the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA), organized in May/June 1999 a national seminar on the impact of human rights in the national reconstruction process, as a means of facilitating the development of a national plan of action for human rights education and promotion;

(g) **Croatia**. The national programme for human rights education, developed by the Croatian National Committee for Human Rights Education, is composed of two

sections. The first part is targeting pre-school education, lower and higher school classes and all types of secondary schools. Following a cross-curricular approach, human rights and civic education topics have been integrated into all suitable school subjects, and various extracurricular and non-school activities have been envisaged. Teaching aids are being prepared, and training for teachers and teacher's trainers is being organized. The second part of the programme includes a strategy for the university system, for the education of adults and a media component. In July 1999, the draft national programme was circulated for comment to non-governmental organizations, associations of national minorities, legal experts and international and regional agencies. The final version is expected to be published by end-1999);

(h) **Denmark**. The Ministry of Education, together with the Danish Centre for Human Rights, has implemented a plan of action for human rights education in schools and for youth which includes a variety of projects on human rights in schools, educational resource centres and teacher training institutions. In December 1998, the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the Danish Centre for Human Rights and the National Commission for UNESCO, organized an international conference on human rights education, which gathered together teachers at all levels of education;

(i) **Ecuador**. The Government is receiving technical assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for the development of an overall national plan for human rights, which will include a national plan for human rights education and information;

(j) **El Salvador**. In April 1999, a national committee for human rights education was established, with the objective of formulating and implementing a national plan of action for human rights education. The Committee is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos and the Executive Technical Unit of the Coordinating Commission of the Justice Sector. It is envisaged that other governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations and relevant individuals will also be called upon to join the Committee. Local offices of the High Commissioner, UNESCO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will provide support to the Committee in the development of the plan;

(k) **Guatemala**. The Ministry of Education elaborated textbooks for human rights education in schools and developed related training for its staff and courses by correspondence for adults. The Presidential Commission of Human Rights developed several human rights publications, seminars and radio programmes, and is establishing a documentation centre and developing a training programme for the Commission's personnel and judges and lawyers. The Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos, together with the Ministry of Education, is undertaking to integrate human rights education at the primary school level and is implementing three specific training programmes targeting community leaders, public officials and the staff of the Procuraduría. At the university level, training of professors, development of post-graduate programmes, establishment of human rights chairs and related activities have been undertaken, under the coordination of the Consejo Superior Universitario Centroamericano. Most of the activities mentioned were carried out with the support of UNESCO, the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union and the Danish International Development Agency;

(l) **Guyana**. From 1994 to 1997, the National Centre for Educational Resource and Development of the Ministry of Education, the Guyana Human Rights Association and Amnesty International/Guyana Section developed jointly the programme on human rights education for citizenship, which is intended for primary and secondary schools. The aims of the programme were the training of teachers and other school personnel, the development of a curriculum and materials, and sensitization of parents and the general public about human rights education. In 1999, the *Teachers' Manual for Caribbean Schools*, developed within the programme, was published and launched during the First Caribbean Human Rights Education Conference for Chief Education Officers and Curriculum Specialists, held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 1999;

(m) **Iran, Islamic Republic of**. In collaboration with UNDP and the Office of the High Commissioner, the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the University of Tehran is implementing a project for strengthening national capacities in human rights research and training through, *inter alia*, the involvement of faculty members, students and university graduates. It is expected that one result will be the issuance of a volume of literature on various crucial human rights subjects. The Government also provided information about educational programmes carried out by non-governmental organizations (in particular, the Network of Women Non-Governmental Organizations) and about courses for lawyers, judges and law enforcement officials organized by the judiciary branch and the Islamic Human Rights Commission;

(n) **Japan**. The Government has continued the implementation of the National Plan of Action which was announced in 1997. In July 1998, the Ministerial Liaison

Council for Training related to Human Rights Education was established to promote the exchange of information on training programmes and materials among ministries and agencies. Major efforts are being undertaken at the prefectural level. According to a survey undertaken in 1998, six prefectures had already formulated a local action plan related to the Decade and 20 were considering the formulation of such plans;

(o) **Jordan**. The Prime Minister informed the Office of the High Commissioner that Jordan had created a national committee for education in human rights, which is entrusted with the development of a national plan. Jordanian non-governmental organizations active in the human rights field constitute half of the membership of the committee;

(p) **Portugal**. A national commission for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education was created pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers in April 1998. The commission is composed of representatives of Parliament, the Ombudsman's office, various governmental departments and all major national human rights non-governmental organizations. In addition to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration, the commission is developing a plan of activities aimed at ensuring the adequate implementation of the activities for the Decade at the national level;

(q) **San Marino**. The Government distributed, in December 1998, a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to each secondary school student in the country. It has also financially contributed to the project of the Office of the High Commissioner for the global dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which constitutes one of the objectives of the Decade (see sect. F below);

(r) **Slovakia**. The Government carried out a survey on human rights education in schools, at the university level and for armed forces and police officials. Recent activities concerning the formal education system include, among others, the human rights Olympiad for secondary schools, the development and adaptation of methodological guides for teachers (e.g., First steps, a guide developed by Amnesty International and endorsed by the Ministry of Education), the organization of seminars for methodologists and teachers of civic education, and training courses for teachers organized by the Human Rights Department of the Comenius University of Bratislava;

(s) **Turkey**. The National Committee on Human Rights Education adopted in July 1999 an action plan which is focused on human rights education at the school and university levels and on the training of law enforcement officials. A circular was issued by the Prime Minister in August 1999 to ensure implementation of the plan. The ministries of national education, interior and justice will report periodically on this issue to the Human Rights Coordinating High Council.

D. Component six: Coordinated development of materials for human rights education

31. Work has continued on the six training packages for human rights monitors, judges and lawyers, prison officials, primary and secondary schoolteachers, journalists and national and local non-governmental organizations. In the development of these materials, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights works in close cooperation with relevant experts and organizations. Most advanced are the training package for human rights monitors and the training package for prison officials, which are being finalized and will be ready for printing by the end of 1999. The training package for judges and lawyers is under final revision, and will be completed by early 2000. The training packages for primary and secondary schoolteachers, national and local non-governmental organizations and journalists will be reviewed by experts meeting during coming months.

32. The Office of the High Commissioner has continued to publish human rights materials (see the addendum to the present report) and to disseminate them among governmental and non-governmental organizations. In January 1999, a new series was launched within the framework of the Decade; detailed information is provided in paragraph 44 below.

33. The Office is collecting materials about human rights education produced at the international, regional, national and local levels. This collection is available for consultation in the Office.

E. Component seven: Strengthening the role of the mass media

34. The Office of the High Commissioner is working on a training package for journalists (see sect. D above) to increase the incorporation by the media of human rights information and public education into their work; in this regard, cooperation with the International Federation of Journalists has been developed. Media activities undertaken

by the Department of Public Information are highlighted in sect. IV below.

F. Component eight: Global dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

35. As previously reported, on 10 December 1998, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights launched a new Web site section comprising more than 250 national and local language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This new section can be accessed at http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/index.htm. In 1999, 20 new versions have been made available and the first revision of the entire section, which incorporates comments received from various partners, has been undertaken, thanks to the continuous financial support of the Government of San Marino. The Office is continuing the production of versions in indigenous and minority languages.

III. Public information activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

A. Publications programme

36. A complete list of all of the publications prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is contained in the addendum to the present report. Publications produced or planned for publication in 1999 are described below.

1. Fact-sheet Series

37. The Fact-sheet Series consists of booklets directed at a non-specialized audience, addressing various aspects of United Nations activities in the field of human rights. Fact-sheets are published in the six official languages of the United Nations and distributed throughout the world free of charge. The Office of the High Commissioner is currently downloading the entire text of all fact-sheets into its home page on the Internet.

38. Fact-sheet No. 26, *The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention*, is planned for publication and new linguistic versions in Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish of revision of Fact-sheet No. 6, *Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances*, have been issued.

2. Professional Training Series

39. The Professional Training Series is designed primarily to provide support to the training activities carried out by the Office under its programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, and to assist other organizations involved in human rights education for professional groups.

40. Professional Training Series No. 5, *Human Rights and Law Enforcement: A Manual on Human Rights Training for the Police*, and its pocket guide (No. 5/Add. 1), *International Human Rights Standards for Law Enforcement: A Pocket Book on Human Rights for the Police*, have been issued in French and Spanish. Professional Training Series No. 6, *Human Rights Training: A Guide to Human Rights Training for Adult Professionals*, is planned for publication before the end of 1999.

41. The Office, in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ILO) at Turin, Italy, has developed the *Training Package on Human Rights Treaty Reporting*, which is composed of three distinctive elements: a manual, a trainer's guide and a pocket guide. The package has been published in English, French and Spanish.

3. Human Rights Study Series

42. Studies and reports in the Human Rights Study Series are issued as United Nations sales publications on selected human rights topics, prepared by experts of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Since the submission of the previous report to the General Assembly, No. 9 *Internally Displaced Persons: Compilation and Analysis of Legal Norms*, has been published in English. Additional funds are being sought to finance its translation and publication in the other official languages of the United Nations.

4. Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1998: basic information kits

43. The series of basic information kits issued in connection with the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were intended as a working tool for agencies, programmes, non-governmental organizations and national institutions, as well as individuals. Basic information kits were published in English, French and Spanish and distributed throughout the world free of charge. In the period under review, the most recent basic information kit, No. 4, *Human Rights Education: Lessons for Life*, has been published in English and Spanish. The French translation is forthcoming.

5. United Nations decades

44. A new series related to United Nations decades has been started. So far, all related publications have been developed within the framework of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education: No. 1, *United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004)*, a booklet compiled from the texts of the international Plan of Action for the Decade and of the guidelines for national plans of action for human rights education, has been published in the six official languages of the United Nations; No. 2, *Human Rights Education and Human Rights Treaties*, has been published in Arabic, English and Chinese; and No. 3, *The Right to Human Rights Education*, a compilation of the full texts of or excerpts from international and regional instruments pertaining to human rights education, is currently being printed.

6. Periodicals

45. A quarterly review of the work of the Office, entitled *Human Rights*, is being published. The articles, written in English and French, provide a window into the various areas of the work of the Office, including the activities of the High Commissioner, treaty bodies, special procedures, field offices, technical cooperation, research and information. In the period under review, No. 3 (summer 1998) and No. 4 (autumn 1998) have been published.

7. Ad hoc publications

46. Two ad hoc publications are being issued: *The Family in International and Regional Human Rights Instruments* and *Benchmarks on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*.

8. Promotional material

47. Within the framework of a joint project with UNESCO for the dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Office published a poster containing the text of the Universal Declaration and a drawing illustrating each article of the document. The poster is available in English, French and Spanish.

B. Use of electronic means

48. Significant achievements have been made with regard to the publication of documents and other information on the Web site of the Office. Since the launch of the Web site on 10 December 1996 (www.unhchr.ch), the average use of the site has increased to 20,000 visits a week. In March 1999 and April 1999, approximately 1.5 million documents per month were accessed.

49. Four databases are now fully operational: (a) the treaty bodies database, with a total of 9,400 full text documents available for public access; (b) the Charter-based bodies database, containing most human rights documents issued since 1994 by the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (formerly known as the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities), in English, French and Spanish, a total of 11,750 documents available through the Web site; (c) the press database, containing, *inter alia*, all human rights press releases issued by the Department of Public Information; and (d) the statements database, providing access to public statements delivered by major United Nations human rights officials, as well as governmental representatives.

50. The six-week session of the Commission on Human Rights in 1999 was broadcast live on the World Wide Web. All public meetings were made available on the Internet by means of the English audio channel.

51. The reproduction of the Web site in a CD-ROM format in April 1999 has increased the availability of electronic information for partners in countries which do not have Internet access or in which such access is very limited.

C. External relations programme

1. Briefings

52. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organizes briefings on United Nations activities in the field of human rights and on specific human rights issues for students, diplomats, journalists, public officials, professors and non-governmental organizations. It also provides staff for the briefings organized by the Department of Public Information.

2. Exhibitions and human rights observances

53. In the context of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the Office increased significantly its involvement in external relations activities, such as exhibits, round-table meetings and stands.

54. On 10 December 1998, the Department of Public Information and the Office organized a number of activities at the Palais des Nations for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights, including an exhibit of paintings by William Wilson illustrating the articles of the Universal Declaration. A videolink with New York to broadcast live the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary was organized at the Palais Wilson. The exhibit, "Human Rights Awardees", was inaugurated to honour past and present recipients of the Human Rights Prize. On 11 December 1998, as a follow-up to a human rights drawing competition for children launched in August 1998, all participants were invited to the Palais Wilson for an informal ceremony.

55. In the first half of 1999, the Office organized five exhibits. Together with the World Intellectual Property Organization, it organized the exhibit "Freedom" by the Romanian artist Emanuela Lucaci, displayed from 22 March to 16 April 1999 during the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The exhibit entitled "Amandla Awethu: African-Americans and African Solidarity" was organized by the Office and the Permanent Mission of the United States of America. Devoted to an important chapter in the history of human rights, the exhibit, displayed at the Palais des Nations from 20 to 29 April 1999, celebrated the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. From 26 April to 14 May 1999, in cooperation with the Canton of Geneva, the exhibit "Les Droits de l'Homme: un regard d'artiste" was displayed at the Palais Wilson. An exhibit dedicated to the International Day for the Victims of Torture (26 June 1999) was displayed at the Palais des Nations from 21 June to 2 July 1999 and at the Palais Wilson from 5 to 16 July 1999. An exhibit on the theme "Extreme poverty around the world" with works by the Italian painter Trento Longaretti was displayed, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Italy, at the Palais des Nations from 5 to 16 July and from 20 July to 6 August 1999. Finally, an exhibit of children drawings has been scheduled for the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in November 1999.

3. Fellowship programme

56. In 1998, the human rights fellowship programme (see General Assembly resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955) was devoted, as in past years, to the training of public officials on reporting under international human rights treaties. The programme was carried out from 26 October to 6 November 1998 at the premises of the United Nations Staff College project at Turin, Italy. Twenty-six participants from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, the Gambia, Georgia, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Latvia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia attended the programme.

4. Internship programme

57. During the reporting period, the Office offered internships to graduate students to enable them to gain first-hand knowledge of United Nations action and procedures in the field of human rights, through active participation in the work of the institution. No funding has been made available by the United Nations for the programme. The lack of funds to support interns has resulted in particularly low participation by students from developing countries; there is an urgent need for funding such candidates.

IV. Activities of the Department of Public Information

58. The Department of Public Information continued to initiate and coordinate activities within the framework of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004. The multimedia approach of the Department strives to ensure effective coverage of United Nations human rights activities, as well as the distribution of relevant human rights information material throughout the world. This work is also being carried out within the framework of three other ongoing decades: the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, 1993-2002; the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 1995-2004; and the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, 1997-2006.

59. Besides its mandate in the area of human rights, the Department carries out mandated programmes in such related areas as social, cultural and economic rights, the rights of specific groups, and other major issues including, *inter alia*, the question of Palestine, self-determination, decolonization and the advancement of women. The Department's related activities are reported to the General Assembly on a regular basis and to other intergovernmental bodies in connection with each specific area or issue.

A. Print materials and publications

60. The multimedia approach of the Department includes the production of printed materials regarding United Nations work in the field of human rights. These materials are produced in various languages and disseminated mainly through the network of 67 United Nations information centres and services and the eight United Nations offices throughout the world. The material is also disseminated electronically and is available on the World Wide Web on

the United Nations home page in English, French and Spanish. The multimedia approach also entails radio and television programmes; press conferences, press briefings and special events; exhibits; special media outreach activities; activities with educational organizations and non-governmental organizations; and public services for visitors and enquiries.

61. The report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session (E/CN.4/1999/86) elaborates the numerous activities undertaken by the Department for the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Among those activities, the Department released first an interim and then a final press kit which contained the following backgrounders, all produced in English and French and made available in Spanish on the Internet: *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: A Magna Carta for All Humanity (DPI/1937/A); Indigenous People: Challenges facing the International Community (DPI/1937/B); Human Rights in Action: Monitoring Compliance through Treaty Bodies and Special Rapporteurs (DPI/1937/C); Mary Robinson Biographical Note (DPI/1937/D); Speech of Ms. Mary Robinson: Realizing Human Rights: "Taking Hold of It Boldly and Duly" (DPI/1937/E); The Right to Development (DPI/1937/F); UDHR Illuminates Global Pluralism, SG Speech at Tehran University (DPI/1937/G),* all released in March 1998; *Human Rights in Action: Field Operations (DPI/1937/H); UN Action to Combat Intolerance and Racism (DPI/1937/I); Education: A Tool for the Elimination of Human Rights Violations (DPI/1937/J),* all published in November 1998; and *Human Rights Defenders — the Front Line Struggle for Human Rights,* produced in English in December 1998. A quiz game to test students' knowledge of human rights and entitled *The UN at Your Fingertips: Questions and Answers (DPI/1945)* was reprinted in English and French in November 1998; a brochure, *UDHR 50th Anniversary (DPI/1967),* based on the Department's 1997 exhibit on the Universal Declaration, was produced in English in August 1998 and French and Spanish in October 1998, and reprinted in English in November 1998; and a human rights fact-sheet, *Fifty Years of Human Rights (DPI/1937/L)* was issued in English.

62. The Department also produced print materials to raise awareness of related issues. These included brochures, special press releases, booklets and fact-sheets. Some of the products were: *End Discrimination Against Women* (DPI/1995/Rev.2), a brochure reprinted in English in November 1998; *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (DPI/1101/Rev.1), reprinted in English in November 1998; *Poverty: An Obstacle to Human Rights* (DPI/2015), a fact-sheet released in English, French and Spanish in May 1999; *Women 2000* (DPI/2035), a press kit cover printed in English in June 1999 and French and Spanish in July 1999; *HIV/AIDS: More Than a Health Crisis* (DPI/2038), a brochure released in English in June 1999 and in French in July 1999; and *International Decade for the World's Indigenous People* (DPI/2066), a kit cover printed in English in August 1999.

63. The *UN Chronicle* covered a variety of human rights topics. In Issue No. 4 (1998), "Human Rights ... human wrongs" was the focus of the cover story. In separate articles, Nobel laureates Nadine Gordimer (Literature), M. F. Perutz (Chemistry), John Polanyi (Chemistry) and Desmond Tutu (Peace) reflected on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In "First Person", the Chairman of the thirty-first session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law spoke with reference to article 19 of the Universal Declaration. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia wrote about the economic and social rights set forth in the Declaration. Judge C. F. Amerasinghe of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal wrote about article 8 as it refers to international civil servants. The subject of development assistance and human rights was discussed by a former member of the New Zealand Parliament. Two articles focused on the rights of the child, and two others dealt with article 25, on the elderly, and article 16 (3), on the family, specifically battery at home.

64. In Issue No. 1 (1999), human rights questions on the agenda of the Third Committee of the General Assembly were addressed, including the commemoration by the Assembly of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration. An article on the right to development reflected recent discussions by the General Assembly. Another article reported on the resolutions on human rights situations adopted by the Assembly. In Issue No. 2 (1999), the main focus was on the situation in Kosovo, including an article in which the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights spoke on the human rights violations in that country. A non-governmental organization wrote about human rights violations suffered by refugees. The article "Lessons from Nuremberg" reflected on the start of the international human rights movement.

65. *Africa Recovery*, vol. 12, No. 4 (April 1999), highlighted human rights abuses in Sierra Leone in a story focusing on a 17-year-old boy called Sheku who had both his hands cut off with a machete, one of the thousands of victims of atrocities committed by rebels of the Revolutionary United Front. Work is being carried out on a briefing paper on violence against African women, which

will emphasize the causes of the violence and contain recommendations for dealing with the problem. The *Yearbook of the United Nations* provides comprehensive and in-depth coverage of human rights issues in a separate three-chapter section. It covers a range of issues, including human rights violations, implementation of the International Covenants on human rights, and ways that the Organization continues to promote and protect human rights. The work of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights is covered in depth, as is related action by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Summaries are made of reports by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, special rapporteurs, independent experts and special representatives. Coverage of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education focuses mainly on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade.

B. Activities of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library

66. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library, through its significant Internet presence, intensified its efforts to keep researchers throughout the world informed of the most recent documentation available in the area of human rights. The United Nations system pathfinder (www.un.org/Depts/dhl/pathfind/frame/start.htm) was added to the Web site of the Library in April 1999. It highlights the most recent material published in the area of human rights, such as bibliographies and compilations of conventions.

67. The UN-I-QUE database (www.un.org/Depts/dhl/unique), updated on a daily basis, alerts researchers to the most recent reports (reports of special rapporteurs as well as annual and sessional reports of human rights bodies) issued by the Organization. The research guide (www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide), updated on a regular basis, incorporates a special chapter on human rights, which enumerates the bodies working in the area of human rights and guides researchers in accessing the output of those bodies. The on-line Internet tutorial (intranet/dpi/dhl/cybseek/), designed to provide a platform for beginners on the Internet, was added to the Web site of the Library in June 1999. It contains recommendations for effective search strategies in the area of human rights.

68. In addition to its regular Internet training courses, the Library continued to offer and provide to staff and delegates its training course specifically designed to facilitate access to human rights resources on the Internet. The Library also continued to acquire and index United Nations and non-United Nations material on human rights. Pursuant to a request by the Library, partners in its network of depository libraries organized activities to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Human Rights Day.

C. Sales and marketing activities

69. As part of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Sales and Marketing Section of the Department of Public Information produced a catalogue of human rights and related publications, which was distributed to libraries, academics, international lawyers and relevant individuals in non-governmental organizations and Governments in the Americas, the Caribbean, and the Asian and Pacific region. The Sales Office at Geneva prepared a similar catalogue for distribution in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. In addition, it produced a special illustrated book by the artist William Wilson, which brings to life the powerful text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Similarly, a special line of souvenir items was developed to promote the fiftieth anniversary. These souvenirs included T-shirts, pens, mugs, backpacks, watches, key tags, tote bags and special books.

D. United Nations television and radio

70. *UN in Action*, a television news magazine of the Department of Public Information which is featured on *CNN World Report*, is distributed to 100 countries in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish. During the reporting period, the following human rights programmes were produced: "Indigenous Caribs in Dominica"; "International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda hands down first sentences"; "Human rights and children in armed conflict"; "Workers' rights in Asia"; "Violence in the workplace"; "Uncertain future for International Tribunal on crimes against humanity in Cambodia"; and "United Nations teaches human rights in Cambodia".

71. *World Chronicle*, a 30-minute television discussion programme in English that is broadcast on cable television across the United States of America and in 13 other countries, covered such human rights issues as: women's rights, with Aida Gonzales-Martinez as the guest; children's rights, with the Executive Director of UNICEF; women's rights, with Noeleen Heyzer; women's rights, with Patricia Flor; war crimes, with Agwu Ukive Okali; and the fiftieth

anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

72. The Department's feature documentary "For Everyone, Everywhere" deals with the origins of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is available in a 30-minute version in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish; and in a 50-minute version in English and French. The Department also produced and distributed television public service announcements marking the fiftieth anniversary, in both 30-second and 60-second versions, in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Russian.

73. The Radio and Central News Service of the Department continued to cover extensively all aspects of human rights and related issues in news bulletin, weekly current affairs magazine and regional magazine programmes in 15 languages for regional and worldwide dissemination. During the reporting period, the following topics, among others, were covered: the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment; the question of the death penalty; ILO reports on prostitution; an alternative view on women and human rights; the worldwide right of asylum; non-governmental organizations: the human rights grapevine; young people and reproductive rights; the child labour situation; the rights of domestic workers; promoting children's rights; the work of the Commission on Human Rights; genocide against the Kosovo Albanian population; the urging, by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, of intensification of work towards an agreement on the universality of the basic human rights; the Secretary-General calling press freedom a cornerstone of human rights; the measures taken to promote and protect the rights of children under the United Nations; equal opportunities for disabled persons; and a report on the visit by the Commissioner for Human Rights to the Balkans.

74. In addition, 51 radio feature programmes were exclusively devoted to the question of human rights and related issues. These programmes were broadcast in official and non-official languages, namely, Arabic; Chinese; Chinese, Kiswahili, Turkish and Urdu; English; English and adaptation in Indonesian and Kiswahili; English and adaptation in Indonesian, Hindi and Urdu; French; Hindi; Russian; Spanish; Portuguese; and Urdu. A United Nations radio officer was dispatched on-site to file reports on the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Balkans. The Department continued to distribute its public service announcements on human rights in various languages for regional dissemination.

E. Special events

75. Special events to observe international days or years are another way of promoting human rights issues. Events were organized at United Nations Headquarters, and the United Nations information centres and services undertook such activities at the national and local levels. For example, to mark the second observance of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June 1999, the Department of Public Information produced an information note and convened a press conference at Headquarters. An exhibit, co-sponsored by the Office of the High Commissioner and the International Council for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, was on display at Headquarters from 25 June to 6 August 1999.

76. For the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on 9 August 1999, indigenous people from around the world gathered at Headquarters to participate in special events on 9 and 10 August. A press conference, a sacred pipe ceremony and three panel discussions were followed by a cultural event of music and poetry, a tribute to indigenous human rights defenders, and the inauguration of the exhibit "Indigenous Art of the Dreamtime", featuring the work of Australian indigenous artists.

F. Outreach activities to students and educators

77. In cooperation with the Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations associated with the Department of Public Information, the Department held its fifty-first annual Conference of Non-governmental Organizations at Headquarters from 14 to 16 September 1998, on the theme "Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: from words to deeds". Topics included an overview of human rights issues and the universality of human rights, the impact of globalization on development, cross-border issues, building and strengthening human rights institutions, the relationship between human rights and peace, and human rights education. A total of 1,800 representatives of non-governmental organizations attended.

78. In its continuing outreach activities to students and educators, the Department reissued the Universal Declaration with a parallel read-easy version and classroom exercises. Two new publications produced specifically for students at the intermediate and secondary levels, *This is the United Nations* (DPI/1938) and *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the United Nations* (DPI/1888), extensively covered human rights issues. Extracts from

Teaching About Human Rights, a teaching manual, was also reissued for use by teachers. Each month, the Department forwarded several hundred information packets to teachers, which contained the text of the Universal Declaration and other human rights-related material.

79. The Department, in association with various partners within and outside the United Nations, arranged several workshops for teachers. In 1998, this was done under an arrangement with the United Federation of Teachers and the New York City Board of Education. On 11 December 1998, about 350 students and 220 observers attended the Student Conference on Human Rights, convened by the Department.

80. The CyberSchoolBus was linked to the live Webcast of the commemoration by the General Assembly of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration, thereby providing access to young learners across the globe. This was in addition to another ongoing human rights project, that of collecting stories from young human rights activists from around the world.

G. Human Rights Day and observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

81. The Department, with the assistance of several United Nations information centres, undertook a special project to have pro bono advertisements for the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration placed in airline in-flight magazines. Eight magazines responded to this initiative. Air France produced a special edition on the anniversary and the following airlines included articles, graphics or photographs: Aeromexico, Air Canada, British Airways, Lan Chile, Middle East Airlines, Qantas Airways and Virgin Atlantic.

82. Events at Headquarters on 10 December 1998 required close cooperation between the Department of Public Information, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, the Facilities Management Division of the Office of Central Support Services and the office of the Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations. The Human Rights Film Festival, organized by the International Council of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, included screenings of documentaries in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium on 3, 4, 7 and 9 December 1998. The premiere of the documentary prepared by the Department, "For Everyone, Everywhere", which contained archival footage on the history of the Universal Declaration, took place on 7 December 1998. Each showing of the documentary was followed by a panel discussion.

83. The 1998 Human Rights Prize award ceremony took place in the General Assembly in the presence of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner. The Department, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, organized a press conference for the awardees immediately afterwards. On Human Rights Day, the Secretary-General officially opened the human rights exhibit organized by the Department. The exhibit, a portion of which was displayed for the launch of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration, included several panels on all Human Rights Prize awardees since 1968. Another event co-sponsored by the Department and the Office of the High Commissioner featured three messengers of peace: Luciano Pavarotti, Michael Douglas and Anna Cataldi.

84. A special event, co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of San Marino, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Department of Public Information, launched the section of the Web site of the Office containing more than 250 language versions of the Universal Declaration. Participants in the event, which was opened by the Secretary-General, included the President of the General Assembly and the Minister of Foreign and Political Affairs of San Marino. An evening recital in the General Assembly Hall featured two famous performers, Luciano Pavarotti and Wynton Marsalis, as the highlight of the Day.

H. United Nations information centres and services

1. United Nations Information Service at Geneva

85. The United Nations Information Service at Geneva has a special role to play in promoting human rights, given its presence at the same duty station as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and most of the sessions of the six treaty bodies.

86. The Information Service provided in-depth support to all aspects of the human rights programme on a continuing basis. This included the issuance of press releases on human rights matters and, in particular, press coverage in English and French of the human rights meetings held at Geneva; the provision of radio and television coverage, by holding regular briefings for the Geneva-based press; and

organization of regular briefings for non-governmental organizations and university students. During the reporting period, the Service produced 1,552 press releases concerned with human rights issues, in English and French. These were distributed in hard copy to the 250 correspondents of the press corps at the United Nations Office at Geneva, transmitted electronically to the Department of Public Information in New York, and immediately posted on the United Nations Web site.

87. In the period 1998-1999, the Service continued its collaboration with the Internet team of the Office of the High Commissioner in order to ensure that its press releases on the work of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission were available with links to the Web site of the Office. The Service also updated its home page in English and French, giving prominence to human rights developments.

88. During the reporting period, 33 of the press conferences held at the United Nations Office at Geneva concerned human rights issues. The Information Service provided television and radio coverage on the work of the Commission and its Subcommission, and on press conferences held by the High Commissioner, human rights experts and governmental representatives. These were used by Associated Press, Reuters Television and CNN, among others. It also liaised with visiting television crews and provided satellite transmission services. United Nations television coverage, including 35 items on the session of the Commission in 1999, was distributed through the European Broadcasting Union to television stations throughout the world.

89. In September 1998, the Information Service organized, in synergy with the annual Conference of Non-governmental Organizations convened by the Department of Public Information at Headquarters, a special event on the theme "Education and human rights: from words to deeds". The event, to which 200 non-governmental organizations were invited, included a live telecast of the Headquarters opening, followed by a debate between non-governmental organizations and local education practitioners on the realization of human rights.

90. For the United Nations Day Open House, held at the Palais des Nations on 18 October 1998, the Service organized, with the support of the European Parliament, a special exhibit commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This graphically attractive exhibit included texts in English and French, a historical introduction to the Declaration, selected articles of the Declaration, and a section on human rights in the forthcoming century. An unprecedented 12,000 visitors viewed the exhibit. In the run-up to Human Rights Day, the Service contacted 80 editors-in-chief in Switzerland and requested them to publish the Universal Declaration on 10 December 1998.

91. During the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights and the fifty-first session of its Subcommission, the Service organized 23 briefings for representatives of non-governmental organizations, given by special rapporteurs and experts. It also arranged 35 seminars for non-governmental organizations and 95 for the public on human rights and related issues. Since April 1999, the Visitors Service at Geneva, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner, has organized visits to the Palais Wilson, giving information on the building's history and the work of the secretariat.

92. During the reporting period, the Information Service successfully implemented an information programme to involve United Nations information centres in the work of the treaty bodies when they meet at Geneva, by sending reports on the countries concerned, background press releases and the final observations on the sessions. In return, the information centres were requested to provide media feedback. These reports and, when necessary, analyses of them, were then submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner. The same procedure was followed by the Department of Public Information when the treaty bodies met in New York.

93. In September 1998, the Director of the Information Service participated, on behalf of the Department of Public Information, in the discussions of the chairmen of the treaty bodies regarding press coverage and the additional measures and new initiatives which could result in increased media coverage of those bodies. One of the recommendations arising from the meeting was that the Department of Public Information should produce a 1999 calendar of the human rights treaty bodies meetings in New York and Geneva. The calendar was subsequently distributed to all United Nations information centres and services. In May 1999, the Director of the Information Service addressed, on behalf of the Department of Public Information, the meeting of special rapporteurs/experts and representatives and the meeting of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies. These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss ways and means to maximize the publicity given by the Department of Public Information to their work. The Service also drafted guidelines for special rapporteurs, which were intended to facilitate their relations with the media.

94. Besides the series of events that culminated in the special observance of Human Rights Day in 1998, the Information Service at Geneva continued to take the lead in organizing commemorations of other related international days at the Palais des Nations, namely, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October; the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, 29 November; International Women's Day, 8 March; the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March; and the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, 9 August.

95. During the session of the Commission on Human Rights in 1999, the Media and Information Officer of the Office of the High Commissioner, assisted by temporary staff in the United Nations Information Service at Geneva, held daily press briefings, prepared daily press reviews on the work of the Commission and broader human rights issues, and notes to the media. The Information Service also ensured the availability of draft resolutions in the press room; apprised the office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General of daily developments; arranged press conferences by special rapporteurs and experts for the international broadcast media; and gave interviews to the media on issues raised at the meetings of the Commission.

2. United Nations information centres and services and United Nations offices

96. During the period September-December 1998, most of the outreach activities of the United Nations information centres and services and United Nations offices were focused on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and on Human Rights Day. The report of the Secretary-General on public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1999/86), contains more detailed information on the activities undertaken by those centres, services and offices. A few highlights of those activities follow.

97. In 1998, United Nations information centres and services and United Nations offices translated and published the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into 55 local languages, including a number of widely spoken indigenous languages. Furthermore, editions adapted for children were published by the information centres at Bucharest, Lima and Rabat and the United Nations offices in Belarus and Uzbekistan. In cooperation with partners, the information centres at Lima, Madrid and Panama City produced versions targeted to the blind. Other important human rights information products were translated and, while most were distributed in printed form, they also increasingly found their way to the home pages of information centres, to CD-ROM (e.g., the information centre at Copenhagen) and to computer diskette (e.g., the information centre at Buenos Aires).

98. A special effort was made to bring the human rights message into classrooms all over the world. The United Nations Information Centre at Asunción held a poster competition involving 30,000 students from 200 schools; at Buenos Aires, the Information Centre launched an interactive educational series; the Information Centre at Lagos co-sponsored a nationwide essay contest for secondary students; the Information Centre at Lima and the newspaper *El Comercio* brought together 750 students for a workshop; the Information Centre at Mexico City trained university students to brief elementary school students on human rights; while numerous information centres gave lectures and speeches or arranged workshops, seminars and briefings at educational institutions.

99. Several information centres used cultural events to raise awareness about human rights issues. The Information Centre at Bujumbura sponsored a song competition, the Centre at Dhaka arranged a reading of human rights poems, the Centre at Moscow co-sponsored a human rights film festival, the Centre at Prague was involved in a human rights festival which included musical performances by human rights activists, the Centre in Rome joined the opera house La Scala in arranging a concert benefiting children in Kosovo, while the Centre at Bogotá and a network of non-governmental organizations attracted 45,000 people to an outdoor rock concert. Exhibits of various kinds were arranged by the information centres at Accra, Asunción, Athens, Beirut, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Copenhagen, Dhaka, Islamabad, Lima, Lomé, London, Mexico City, Moscow, Ouagadougou, Panama City, Rabat, Sydney and Tokyo, by the information services at Geneva and Vienna, and by the United Nations office in Belarus.

100. During the period January-August 1999, many information centres used their close contacts with local media to promote the issue of human rights. Staff at the information centres at Asunción, Buenos Aires, Lisbon, Paris, Prague and Rome, the information services at Bangkok and Geneva, and the United Nations office in Uzbekistan gave interviews to written and electronic media, while the United Nations Information Centre at New Delhi arranged several interviews for the High Commissioner. The Information Centre at Bogotá organized two working breakfasts with media representatives to familiarize them with the local human rights office and also arranged a press conference to introduce the new representative of the High Commissioner.

101. Reflecting civil society's increasing interest in human rights issues, the United Nations information centres and services arranged or participated in panels, round-table meetings, workshops, briefings and model United Nations, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, libraries and parliamentarians. Outreach activities of this kind were carried out by the information centres at Accra, Asunción, Beirut, Buenos Aires, Brussels, Copenhagen, Harare, Kathmandu, La Paz, Madrid, Maseru, New Delhi, Ouagadougou, Port of Spain, Rabat, Rome, Bogotá, Tehran and Tunis, the Information Service at Bangkok and the United Nations office in Uzbekistan. Lectures or speeches on human rights were given by staff of the information centres at Asunción, Athens, Colombo, Dhaka, La Paz, Lagos, Lisbon, Madrid, Mexico City, New Delhi, Ouagadougou, Panama City, Paris, Port of Spain, Pretoria, Rome, Tehran and Tunis, and of the United Nations offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan.

102. Supplementing the traditional ways of disseminating information on the issue, such as translation and publication, the United Nations information centres and services are increasingly employing new technology such as home pages, now a feature in 24 offices. In addition, the United Nations information centre at Lisbon arranged an inter-agency video conference on women and human rights, and the information centres at Ouagadougou and Tokyo each co-produced a television programme and video. Other activities include a series of world music concerts co-organized by the United Nations Information Centre at Prague; exhibits in Minsk and Panama City; essay contests in Lagos; a school contest arranged by Information Centre in Paris; a campaign on the rights of children co-sponsored by the Information Centre in Rome; a human rights awareness campaign supported by the Information Centre at Bucharest, involving the distribution of 40,000 leaflets; an information stand at a two-day human rights event in Belgium; and a simulation at a university of the proceedings of the Human Rights Committee, co-organized by the United Nations Information Centre at Tehran.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 3* (E/1999/23-E/CN.4/1999/167), chap. II, sect. A, resolutions 1999/64 and 1999/60, respectively.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 36* (A/54/36).

[3] The report of the Workshop is contained in E/CN.4/1999/94.

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I. Publications issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as at August 1999

A. Fact sheets

No. 1	*Human Rights Machinery*
No. 2 (Rev.1)	*The International Bill of Human Rights*
No. 3 (Rev.1)	*Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights*
No. 4	*Methods of Combating Torture*
No. 5	*Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination*
No. 6 (Rev. 2)	*Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances*
No. 7	*Communication Procedures*
No. 8	*World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights*
No. 9 (Rev.1)	*The Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
No. 10 (Rev.1)	*The Rights of the Child*
No. 11 (Rev.1)	*Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions*
No. 12	*The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*
No. 13	*International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights*
No. 14	*Contemporary Forms of Slavery*
No. 15	*Civil and Political Rights: The Human Rights Committee*
No. 16 (Rev.1)	*The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*
No. 17	*The Committee against Torture*
No. 18 (Rev.1)	*Minority Rights*
No. 19	*National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights*
No. 20	*Human Rights and Refugees*
No. 21	*The Human Right to Adequate Housing*
No. 22	*Discrimination against Women: The Convention and the Committee*
No. 23	*Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children*
No. 24	*The Rights of Migrant Workers*
No. 25	*Forced Eviction and Human Rights*
No. 26	*The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention* (forthcoming)

B. Professional Training Series

Hors-serie	*Training Package on Human Rights Treaty Reporting* (HR/PUB/91/1/Rev.1) (Sales No. GE.97.0.16). Includes a manual on human rights reporting; a trainer's guide on human rights reporting; and a pocket guide on basic human rights instruments
No. 1	*Human Rights and Social Work: A Manual for Schools of Social Work and the Social Work Profession* (HR/P/TP/1) (Sales No. E.94.XIV.4)
No. 2	*Human Rights and Elections: A Handbook on the Legal, Technical and Human Rights Aspects of Elections* (HR/P/TP/2) (Sales No. E.94.XIV.5)
No. 3	*Human Rights and Pre-Trial Detention: A Handbook of International Standards relating to Pre-Trial Detention* (HR/P/TP/3) (Sales No. E.94.XIV.6)
No. 4	*National Human Rights Institutions: A Handbook on the Establishment and Strengthening of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights* (HR/P/TP/4) (Sales No. E.95.XIV.2)
No. 5	*Human Rights and Law Enforcement: A Manual on Human Rights Training for the Police* (HR/P/TP/5) (Sales No. E.96.XIV.5)
No. 5/Add.1	*International Human Rights Standards for Law Enforcement: A Pocket Book on Human Rights for the Police* (HR/P/TP/5/Add.1) (Sales No. E.96.XIV.6)
No. 6	*Human Rights Training: A Guide to Human Rights Training for Adult Professionals* (forthcoming)

C. Human Rights Study Series

No. 1	*Right to Adequate Food as a Human Right* (Sales No. E.89.XIV.2)
No. 2	*Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion or Belief* (Sales No. E.89.XIV.3)
No. 3	*Freedom of the Individual under Law: An Analysis of Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (Sales No. E.89.XIV.5)
No. 4	*Status of the Individual and Contemporary International Law: Promotion, Protection and Restoration of Human Righs at National, Regional and International Levels* (Sales No. E.91.XIV.3)
No. 5	*Study on the Rights of Persons belonging to Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities* (Sales No. E.91.XIV.2)
No. 6	*Human Rights and Disabled Persons* (Sales No. E.92.XIV.4)
No. 7	*The Right to Adequate Housing* (Sales No. E.96.XIV.3)
No. 8	*Sexual Exploitation of Children* (Sales No. E.96.XIV.7)
No. 9	*Internally Displaced Persons: Compilation and Analysis of Legal Norms* (Sales No. E. 97.XIV.2)
No.10	*Protection of the Heritage of Indigenous Peoples* (Sales No. E.97.XIV.3)

D. Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1998: basic information kits

No. 1 *1998: Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

No. 2 *Women's Rights: The Responsibility of All*

No. 3 *Children's Rights: Creating a Culture of Human Rights*

No. 4 *Human Rights Education: Lessons for Life*

E. Series on the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004

No. 1 *United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004)* (HR/PUB/DECADE/1998/1)

No. 2 *Human Rights Education and Human Rights Treaties* (HR/PUB/DECADE/1999/1)

No. 3 *The Right to Human Rights Education* (forthcoming)

F. Human Rights Quarterly Review

No. 1 Winter 1997/1998

No. 2 Spring 1998

No. 3 Summer 1998

No. 4 Autumn 1998

No. 5 First issue of 1999 (forthcoming)

G. Other publications

ABC: Teaching Human Rights; Practical activities for primary and secondary schools

The Family in International and Regional Human Rights Instruments (forthcoming)

Benchmarks on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (forthcoming)

The High Commissioner for Human Rights: An Introduction; Making Human Rights a Reality (HR/PUB/HCHR/96/1)

HIV/AIDS and Human Rights: International Guidelines (HR/PUB/98/1) (Sales No. E.98.XIV.1)

The African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (HR/PUB/90/1)

The First Twenty Years: Progress Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (HR/PUB/91/4)

Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: Global Compilation of National Legislation against Racial Discrimination (HR/PUB/90/8)

Application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights under the Optional Protocol by the Human Rights Committee Reprint No. 1 (4)

H. Reports of meetings

European Workshop on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Past, Present, Future, Milan, Italy, 7-9 September 1988 (HR/PUB/89/1)

The Administration of Justice and Human Rights for Eastern European Countries: Report of a United Nations Training Course, Moscow, 21-25 November 1988 (HR/PUB/89/2)

The Teaching of Human Rights: Report of an International Seminar, Geneva, 5-9 December 1988 (HR/PUB/89/3)

The Effects of Racism and Racial Discrimination on the Social and Economic Relations between Indigenous Peoples and States: Report of a Seminar, Geneva, 16-20 January 1989 (HR/PUB/89/5)

Report of an International Consultation on AIDS and Human Rights, Geneva, 26-28 July 1989 (HR/PUB/90/2)

United Nations Training Course on International Norms and Standards in the Field of Human Rights, Moscow, 27 November-1 December 1989 (HR/PUB/90/6)

The Realization of the Right to Development: Global Consultation on the Right to Development as a Human Right, Geneva, 8-12 January 1990 (HR/PUB/91/2)

Political, Historical, Economic, Social and Cultural Factors contributing to Racism, Racial Discrimination and Apartheid: Report of a Seminar, Geneva, 10 January-14 December 1990 (HR/PUB/91/3)

Workshop on International Human Rights Instruments and Reporting Obligations: Preparation of Reports to United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies, Moscow, 26-30 August 1991) (HR/PUB/91/5)

African Seminar on International Human Rights Standards and the Administration of Justice, Cairo, 8-12 July 1992 (HR/PUB/91/6)

United Nations Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region on Human Rights Issues, Jakarta, 26-28 January 1993 (HR/PUB/93/1)

Fourth Workshop on Regional Human Rights Arrangements in the Asian and Pacific Region, Kathmandu, 26-28 February 1996 (HR/PUB/96/3)

I. Reference material

CD-ROM: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 4th edition, 1999

United Nations Reference Guide in the Field of Human Rights (ST/HR/6) (Sales No. E.93.XIV.4)

United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights (ST/HR/2/Rev.4) (Sales No. E.94.XIV.11)

Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments, vol. I, parts I and II (ST/HR/1/Rev.5) (Sales No. E.94.XIV.1)

Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments; Regional Instruments, vol. II (ST/HR/1/Rev.5) (Sales No. E.97.XIV.1)

Human Rights: Status of International Instruments (ST/HR/5) (Sales No. E.87.XIV.2)

Human Rights: International Instruments; Chart of Ratifications as at 31 December 1997 (ST/HR/4/Rev.16)

Human Rights Bibliography, 5 vols. (Sales No. GV.E.92.0.16)

Official Records of the Human Rights Committee

Selected decisions of the Human Rights Committee under the Optional Protocol

J. Promotional material

Human Rights in Action (brochure)

Universal Declaration of Human Rights poster containing the text of the Universal Declaration and drawings illustrating each article

II. Human rights publications available from the Department of Public Information as at August 1999

Symbol	*Title or description*	*Language*
DPI/15	Universal Declaration of Human Rights (leaflet)	A/C/E/F/R/S
DPI/801	Principles of Medical Ethics (leaflet)	A/C/E/F/R/S
DPI/847	Convention against Torture (leaflet)	A/C/E/F/R/S
DPI/858/Rev.1	Declaration and International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (booklet)	E
DPI/876/Rev.1	Universal Declaration of Human Rights (passbook)	C
DPI/876/Rev.2	Universal Declaration of Human Rights (passbook)	A/E/F/R/S
DPI/892	International Convention Against Apartheid in Sports (leaflet)	A/E/F
DPI/918	Declaration on the Right to Development (leaflet)	A/C/E/F/R/S
DPI/925/R.1	International Bill of Human Rights (booklet)	A/C/E/F/R/S
DPI/932/Rev.1	International Plan of Action on Ageing (booklet)	E
DPI/933/Rev.1	World Programme of Action on Disabled Persons (booklet)	E
DPI/938	Guiding Principles on Development and Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future (leaflet)	E/F/S
DPI/993	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (booklet)	A/C/R
DPI/993/Rev.1	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (booklet)	E/F/S
DPI/995/Rev.1	End Discrimination Against Women (brochure)	A/F/S
DPI/995/Rev.2	End Discrimination Against Women (brochure)	E
DPI/1049	International Convention Against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries (booklet)	A/C/E/F/R/S
DPI/1101/Rev.1	Convention on the Rights of the Child (booklet)	E
DPI/1226	World Conference on Human Rights (poster)	A/C/E/F/R/S
DPI/1238	International Year for the World's Indigenous People (poster)	A/C/F/R/S
DPI/1273	World Conference on Human Rights brochure	A/C/E/F/R/S

Symbol	*Title or description*	*Language*
DPI/1277	International Year for the World's Indigenous People, 1993 (logo repro sheet)	ARC/EFS
DPI/1278	World Conference on Human Rights (logo repro sheet)	ARC/EFS
DPI/1283	Indigenous People and Intellectual and Cultural Property Rights (backgrounder)	E/F/S
DPI/1293	Indigenous People and Self Rule (backgrounder)	E
DPI/1374	Indigenous People (student leaflet, 1993)	E/F
DPI/1394/Rev.1	Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights (booklet)	A/C/E/F/R/S
DPI/1454	Standard Rules for Equal Opportunities for Disabled Persons (booklet)	A/C/E/F/R/S
DPI/1468	Fourth World Conference on Women (brochure)	C/E/F/S
DPI/1476	Standard Rules for Disabled Persons (brochure)	F/S
DPI/1549	Illustrated Wall Chart on Human Rights	F/S
DPI/1550	Human Rights Hotline (information note)	A/C/E/F/S
DPI/1595	Women and Violence (backgrounder)	E
DPI/1626	International Year for Tolerance (backgrounder)	A/C/E/F/R/S
DPI/1627	Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (backgrounder)	A/C/F/S
DPI/1651	Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (poster)	Multilingual
DPI/1653/Rev.1	Universal Declaration of Human Rights (poster/brochure)	F/S
DPI/1676	Blue Book: The United Nations and Human Rights	E/F/S
DPI/1709	Declaration on Enforced Disappearances (booklet)	E/F/S
DPI/1717/Rev.1	Indigenous Women (backgrounder)	E/F/S
DPI/1736	International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (brochure)	E/F/S
DPI/1736/Rev.1	International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (brochure)	F
DPI/1754	International Year for the Eradication of Poverty 1996 (logo repro sheet)	E
DPI/1762	Beijing Platform for Action: Summary (brochure)	E
DPI/1766	Beijing Platform for Action (booklet)	E
DPI/1769	World Programme of Action on Youth to the Year 2000 (backgrounder)	E
DPI/1807/Rev.1	United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (press kit cover)	E/F/S
DPI/1813	International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (poster)	E/F/S
DPI/1834	Children in Armed Conflict (booklet)	E/F/S
DPI/1837	Independence of the Judiciary (booklet)	E/F/S
DPI/1842	United Nations Action against Poverty (backgrounder)	E/F/S
DPI/1877	The Right to Reproductive and Sexual Health (backgrounder)	E
DPI/1885	International Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (logo repro sheet)	E
DPI/1886	International Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (logo press release)	E/F/S
DPI/1900	Universal Declaration on Human Rights, fiftieth anniversary (poster)	Multilingual

Symbol	*Title or description*	*Language*
DPI/1928	Human rights, fiftieth anniversary (logo repro sheet)	Multilingual
DPI/1929	Human rights, fiftieth anniversary (text repro sheet)	Multilingual
DPI/1929	Eradication of Poverty (poster)	Multilingual
DPI/1933	A United Nations Objective: Eradicate Poverty (backgrounder)	E/F/S
DPI/1937	Universal Declaration of Human Rights, fiftieth anniversary (press kit cover)	
DPI/1937/A	Magna Carta, fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	E/F
DPI/1937/B	Indigenous People, fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	E/F
DPI/1937/C	United Nations in Action: Monitoring Compliance, fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	E/F
DPI/1937/D	Mary Robinson biographical note, fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	E/F
DPI/1937/E	Mary Robinson's speech at Oxford University, fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	E/F
DPI/1937/F	The Right to Development, fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	E/F
DPI/1937/G	Secretary-General's speech at the University of Tehran, fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	E/F
DPI/1937/H	Human Rights in Action: Field Operations, fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	E
DPI/1937/J	Education: A Tool for the Elimination of Human Rights Violation, fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	E/F
DPI/1940	The United Nations at Your Fingertips: Questions and Answers (game)	E
DPI/1945	Universal Declaration of Human Rights, fiftieth anniversary (bookmark)	E/F (two-sided)
DPI/1951	International Criminal Court (logo repro sheet)	E
DPI/1952	International Criminal Court (text repro sheet)	Multilingual
DPI/1967	Universal Declaration of Human Rights, fiftieth anniversary (brochure)	E/F
DPI/1998	United Nations Briefing Papers: Human Rights (booklet)	E/F/S
DPI/2015	Poverty: An Obstacle to Human Rights (fact-sheet)	E/F/S
DPI/2016	International Criminal Court: Some Questions and Answers (information note)	E
DPI/2035	Women 2000 (press kit cover)	E/F/S
DPI/2038	HIV/AIDS: More Than a Health Crisis (brochure)	E/F
DPI/2066	International Decade for the World's Indigenous People (kit cover)	E